

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

9.13.18

Dear friends and colleagues,

Please see below for some of the latest news and commentary on bias in the media. As chairman of the House Media Fairness Caucus, I compile this biweekly newsletter to provide a look at media bias and its impact on the public's news consumption and trust in news outlets.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith

Big Tech in the Dock: The companies are tempting government intervention

Opinion in Wall Street...

"Complaints about anti-conservative bias by tech platforms have been growing for some time. Consider conservative radio host Dennis Prager, whose "PragerU" educational videos have been restricted by Google's YouTube unit. None of the 50 or so censored videos included violent, sexually explicit or hateful content that violated Google's Community Guidelines.... PragerU has sued Google and claims in its lawsuit that YouTube "declined to provide any explanation for why the videos were restricted or demonetized..."

"Conservative Doug Wead recently complained on The Federalist website that Google barred him from buying an ad to promote a Fox Business interview. He says a Google employee told him the crawler along the bottom of the video, which quoted Mr. Trump calling the Mueller investigation a 'witch hunt,' was hate speech." "Google controls 90% of all search. Its employees exercise significant control over what users see and don't see."

Twitter Ad Rejects Tweets for "Hateful Content"

Center for Immigration Studies...

"Yesterday Twitter censored four Center for Immigration Studies tweets for use in the Center's Twitter Ads campaign, alleging hateful content. All four tweets use the statutory phrases "illegal alien" or "criminal alien", and all of the tweets referenced law enforcement, either at the border or in the interior. One of the tweets contained a powerful Daily Caller video showing illegal aliens in camouflage carrying large backpacks across the border unimpeded." Americans should fear social media's control over what they read.

There is Just Too Much Evidence of Censorship Against Conservatives

Breitbart's Charlie Nash interview with Rep. Lamar Smith

"There is just too much evidence that we have at hand showing that the social platforms have in fact been discriminating against conservative views, conservative organizations, conservative news media of all kinds," Smith said when asked by Breitbart News' Deputy Political Editor Amanda House for his thoughts on the Democratic Party's claim that censorship of conservatives is an "imaginary narrative."

"They've adjusted their algorithms, sometimes they have blocked or actually deleted information that's conservative in nature. We have Google... designating as a hate group religious freedom organizations, border security organizations, pro-life organizations, so clearly they were targeting conservative-type viewpoints," he continued.

"That's the kind of thing that really worries us here. Our platforms, whether they be Facebook or anyone else, they're supposed to be neutral. They're supposed to be objective. And clearly, they have not been in the past."